IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims is set forth below. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 2 and AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1.   (Currently Amended) An alteration checking apparatus comprising:

a back-up unit that copies original data from an original data storage unit to a back-up data storage unit as back-up data without checking alternation of the original data; and

an alteration checking unit that, after copying of the original data as the back-up data is over, decides whether the original data has been altered based on original data stored in the original data storage unit and notifies a user of decided alternation, and

wherein the alteration checking unit writes information in the list storing unit relating to original data that have been copied successfully as the back-up data and relating to original data that are decided to be not altered, the information indicating that authenticity of the original data is assured.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~The alternation checking apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an access deciding unit that checks whether original data relating to an access request has been altered each time there is an access request,~~ An alteration checking apparatus comprising:

a back-up unit that copies original data from an original data storage unit to a back-up data storage unit as back-up data without checking alternation of the original data; and

an alteration checking unit that, after copying of the original data as the back-up data is over, decides whether the original data has been altered based on original data stored in the original data storage unit and notifies a user of decided alternation, and

wherein the alteration checking unit adds information to the information relating to relating to original data, in the list storing unit, that indicates that original data is not altered corresponding to original data that the access deciding unit decides as to be not altered.

2

4.   (Previously Presented) The alteration checking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a restoration unit that restores original data when the alteration deciding unit decides that the original data has been altered, based on latest original data corresponding to the original data to be restored from the back-up storage unit.

5.   (Original) The alteration checking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a request processing unit that denies access to the original data in the original data storage unit while back-up unit is copying the original data and that allows access to the original data in the original data storage unit while the alteration deciding unit is deciding whether the original data has been altered.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method of taking a back-up of original data and deciding whether the original data has been altered, comprising:

copying the original data as back-up data without checking alternation of the original data; and

deciding, after the copying is over, whether the original data has been altered based on original data stored in an original data storage unit; and

notifying a user of decided alternation, and

wherein the deciding includes writing information in the list storing unit relating to original data that have been copied successfully as the back-up data and relating to original data that are decided to be not altered, the information indicating that authenticity of the original data is assured.

7.   (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

denying access to the original data in the original data storage unit during the copying; and

allowing access to the original data in the original data storage unit during the deciding.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to execute:

copying the original data as back-up data without checking alternation of the original data; and

deciding, after the copying is over, whether the original data has been altered based on original data stored in an original data storage unit; and

3

notifying a user of decided alternation, and

wherein the deciding includes writing information in the list storing unit relating to original data that have been copied successfully as the back-up data and relating to original data that are decided to be not altered, the information indicating that authenticity of the original data is assured.

9.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium according to claim 8, further comprising:

denying access to the original data in the original data storage unit during the copying; and

allowing access to the original data in the original data storage unit during the deciding.

10.   (Currently Amended) An alternation checking apparatus comprising:

a back-up unit that copies original data without checking alternation of the original data; and

an alternation checking unit that, after copying of the original data is completed, determines whether the original data has been altered based solely on the original data and provides a notification regarding whether the original data has been altered, and

wherein the alteration checking unit adds information to the information relating to relating to original data, in the list storing unit, that indicates that original data is not altered corresponding to original data that the access deciding unit decides as to be not altered, the information indicating that authenticity of the original data is assured.